

L.M. Lederman
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BROCHURE FOR TEACHERS

THE LIFE OF STAFF AT IMSA

If Bread is the staff of life, the life of the teaching staff at IMSA will be Time. It is our plan to assemble an outstanding staff of instructors, drawing from high schools, colleges and research laboratories. We expect to embellish the core staff with visitors on leave from other institutions and with a continuing stream of distinguished visitors.

We are concerned that our instructors have time - time to be available to individual students, time to enhance their own professional standing, time to be with one another so that we generate an interdisciplinary ethic that demonstrates the unity of knowledge. We want faculty to devise and run seminars, to supervise research projects and enhance that role model effect that we know is responsible for so many of our intellectual leaders.

Another important role for the staff will be in the transfer of educational "technology" to the schools in Illinois and the nation. We'll need to send people out to the schools to lecture and demonstrate, we'll need to operate teacher institutes in summer, perhaps on week-ends.

Our staff will have the opportunity of interacting with a rich menu of nearby institutions e.g. Fermilab, Argonne National Lab, Bell Laboratory, Amoco Research, Nalco Research, University of Illinois, University of Chicago and Northwestern, Northern Illinois, many community and four year colleges.

In short, given the resources, we hope to generate a teaching community which will do justice to the gifted youngsters intrusted to them but which will also establish IMSA as a national resource - we will settle for nothing less than to be the premier school in the nation.

We are a school catering to the gifted in science and mathematics but we are intensely concerned that our graduates are capable of functioning in a complex world. We include a strong element of the humanities which adds wisdom to knowledge - for we know that wisdom is the key to human progress. We include social studies and language so that

the graduates have an appreciation of their heritage and so that they can communicate, i.e. so that their gifts can be unwrapped. We include the arts and music which will enrich the lives of our future scientists and also remind them that science and mathematics are a part of culture.

We welcome applications from teachers, professors, scientists in all fields appropriate for the upper high school-lower college spread which our curriculum will encompass.

Photos - Excerpts from Ph.Ds etc.

ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

Ladies and gentlemen -

The IMSA is a grass roots response to a number of connected crises in American life.

- (1) Nation at risk - crumbling of the educational infrastructure
- (2) The neglect of the gifted
- (3) The escalating need for scientists and engineers in a world increasingly dependent on science-based technology and where the need is for scientists, the production is in lawyers
- (4) The alarming decrease in the number of Americans that are coming out of our graduate schools

In addition to these crises, there are opportunities and possibilities

- (1) The potential for a dramatic change in the way we teach, brought about by the mushrooming technologies that roughly fall within the rubric of information science.
- (2) The potential for an even more dramatic ability of a pioneering institution such as IMSA, impacting on other schools in the state and in the nation via the new technologies of communication science.
- (3) The potential for a vast increase in usable scientific talent among women and minorities which, at present, constitute a much too small a percentage of this human resource applied to science and technology.

The vision which we brought to the Governor and the Legislature and which is now taking shape about thirty miles west of here is by no means a small one - "Make no Small Plans" is a slogan we learned from the business community. Our hopes and firm beliefs are that if we do things right - the experiment in education, now in its painful infancy will reverberate throughout the nation.

The plan is simply stated: to scour the state - from Carbondale to Highland Park to the Chicago ghetto - among the wealthy and among the poorest - male and female, black and white, even democrats and republicans! to find the one thing we need - the spark of exceptional creativity - to provide that rare child with like minded fellows and the best possible learning environment - to blow on those embers - however faint, however suppressed by the shame of differentness - until, in three years, we have a mature, confident young scholar to send on to the university - now a tiny trickle but inevitably a stream as our innovative ideas spread by computer network, by exchanges, by media and so on to create a national recommitment to the simple idea that the creative child is god's gift - too often lying unopened, put away in the closet. We see this as a challenge that public education must successfully respond to - it is not for me to use the overworked phrases - economic competitiveness, national security or even to evoke our national dignity as a world leader in the alleviation of human distress and in making our citizens more comfortable.

We are aware of many brilliant starts in this direction - the Bronx HS of SC - N. Carolina School - even some of the quality schools in

Illinois - but what we are doing goes far beyond any of these and only a visit, by us to your offices or even better by you to the school, can convey to you the excitement and world-class vision we'd like you to share with us.

We do need your help. Yes we are a public school funded by the state as an independent state agency. But we are newborn and fragile - under constant threat of being forced to live under a state education code that would stifle innovation - harassed by powerful constituencies such as the teachers unions and others who object to us as elitist, too innovative, a threat to the existing establishment. We need your financial help to indicate to the legislators that you understand our value and are willing to help in a substantial way. Ultimately we believe we'll need 10% from the private sector - \$1.5M/year. But now before November, we need a response to this threshold campaign.